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Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W
---------- 009806
R 022020Z MAY 75
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0901
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY DAMSCUS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

S E C R E T ROME 6388

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, XF, EG, IT
SUBJECT: RUMOR'S VISIT TO CAIRO

REF: CAIRO 4318

1. POLITICAL DIRECTOR GENERAL DUCCI CALLED IN CHARGE MAY 2 TO GIVE HIM THE HIGHLIGHTS OF FONMIN RUMOR'S VISIT TO CAIRO. HE OFFERED TO MAKE AVAILABLE THE DESK OFFICER WHO WOULD PROVIDE DETAILS TO AN EMBASSY OFFICER. THIS REPORT WILL BE PREPARED AS SOON AS AN APPOINTMENT CAN BE FIXED.

2. DUCCI SAID THAT EGYPTIAN FONMIN FAHMY WAS CORDIAL AND CHEERFUL. HE TOLD THE ITALIANS THE EGYPTIANS DID NOT REQUIRE ANY AID MONEY. HOWEVER, HIS REMARKS INCLUDED WHAT DUCCI REFERRED TO AS "INNUENDOS" TO THE EFFECT THAT THE ITALIANS SHOULD TAKE A FIRM LINE WITH ISRAEL. IN ADDITION THE EGYPTIANS COMMENTED THAT THE DECLARATION OF THE EC9 OF NOVEMBER 6, 1973, IS OBSOLESCENT AND THAT THE EUROPEAN COUNTRIES EITHER SINGLY OR JOINTLY SHOULD MOVE FURTHER IN THE DIRECTION OF THE ARAB POSITION.

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2. FAHMY INDICATED THAT WHILE THE EGYPTIANS PREFERRED TO EN-
LARGE THE GENEVA CONFERENCE THE EGYPTIANS WOULD NOT INSIST AS
THEY RECOGNIZE THE DIFFICULTIES FOR ISRAEL HAVING FRANCE, THE
UK AND YUGOSLAVIA AS MEMBERS. THE EGYTPIANS BELIEVE, APPAR-
ENTLY, THAT THE ENLARGEMENT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE IN A SECOND PHASE
OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE. HOWEVER THEY DO WISH ACCORDING TO
DUCCI TO ENLARGE THE GUARANTEE SYSTEM FOR ANY SETTLEMENT BEYOND
SIMPLY THE US AND THE USSR. DUCCI SAID THAT THE EGYPTIANS
SEEMED TO BE TRYING TO REMOVE THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM FROM THE
"RIGID DIALECTICS" OF US/SOVIET RELATIONS.

4. THE ITALIANS CAME AWAY WITH THE IMPRESSION THAT WHILE THE
EGYPTIANS ARE PREPARED TO GO AHEAD WITH THE GENEVA CONFERENCE
THEY HAVE NOT ENTIRELY GIVEN UP THE HOPE OF AN INTERMEDIATE
STEP WHICH HOWEVER WOULD BE SUBSUMED INTO A GENEVA SETTLEMENT.
DUCCI REMARKED THAT THE EGYPTIANS NEED TO BRING ANY SUCH STEP
UNDER THE GENEVA UMBRELLA TO PROTECT EGYPT'S POSITION AMONG
THE ARAB COUNTRIES.

5. FINALLY FAHMY GAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT RELATIONS WITH THE
SOVIETS WERE QUITE CHILLY. HE INDICATED THAT THE SOVIETS
INSIST THAT THE EGYPTIANS PAY THEIR CURRENT DEBT FOR MILITARY
EQUIPMENT AND THAT ADDITIONAL MATERIAL WILL BE LIMITED TO THOSE
ITEMS IN THE PIPELINE UNDER THE OLD CONTRACTS.

6. RUMOR MET WITH FAHMY IN TWO SEPARATE MEETINGS. THE FIRST
WAS A PUBLIC AFFAIR WITH 30 EGYPTIANS AND 10 ITALIANS PRESENT.
IT LASTED FOR TWO HOURS AND FAHMY REITERATED THE STANDARD
EGYPTIAN POSITION. THE SECOND WAS A ONE HOUR RESTRICTED MEET-
ING AT WHICH TIME THE ITALIANS GAINED THE IMPRESSIONS AND
INSIGHTS MENTIONED ABOVE.

7. THERE WAS A MEETING ALSO WITH SADAT WHICH DUCCI CHARAC-
TERIZED AS "PONTIFICAL". THE PRINCIPAL ITEM OF INTEREST RE-
PORTED BY DUCCI WAS SADAT'S COMMENT THAT ISRAEL SEEMS UNABLE
TO MAKE THE NECESSARY GESTURES BECAUSE OF THE WEAKNESS OF THE
GOVERNMENT. SADAT ADDED THAT IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO GO BACK
TO THE PREVIOUS SITUATION OF NO WAR NO PEACE. ALL COUNTRIES
INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES SHOULD, SAID SADAT, TAKE A CLEAR
POSITION IN THIS MATTER. BEAUDRY
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